



3731 JFW

PATENT
ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NO.: B0751/7033

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE


Applicant: Christopher T. Zirps et al.
Serial No.: 10/656,083
Filed: September 5, 2003
For: ENDOSCOPIC BAND LIGATOR
Examiner: Gary Jackson
Art Unit: 3731

Confirmation No.: 9936

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.8(a)

The undersigned hereby certifies that this document is being placed in the United States mail with first-class postage attached, addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on July 22, 2004


Signature


Joyce C. Hersh

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

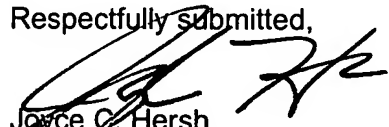
Transmitted herewith for filing are the following documents:

- [XX] Information Disclosure Statement,
- [XX] PTO Form 1449;
- [XX] International Search Report PCT/US03/27733;
- [XX] Postcard receipt.

If the enclosed papers are considered incomplete, the Mail Room and/or the Application Branch is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned collect at (617) 261-3100, Boston, Massachusetts.

No fee is believed due with this filing. Please charge any fees or credits to the account of the undersigned, Deposit Account No. 50-1721, reference 0506766/0220. A duplicate of this sheet is enclosed for accounting purposes.

Respectfully submitted,


Joyce C. Hersh
Reg. No.: 42,890
KIRKPATRICK & LOCKHART, LLP
75 State Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02109-1808
Tel.: (617) 261-3100
Customer No.: 022832

Date: July 22, 2004



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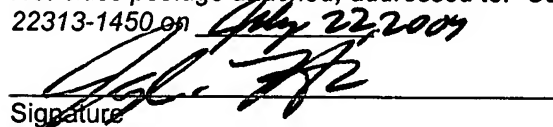
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Signature

Joyce C. Harsh
Name (please print)

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**STATEMENT FILED PURSUANT TO THE DUTY OF
DISCLOSURE UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§1.56, 1.97 AND 1.98**

Sir:

Pursuant to the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §§1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, the applicant requests consideration of this information disclosure statement.

Compliance with 37 C.F.R. §1.97

This information disclosure statement has been filed before the mailing date of a first office action on the merits in the above-identified application. No fee or certification is required.

Information Cited

The applicant hereby makes of record in the above-identified application the information listed on the attached form PTO-1449 (modified). The order of presentation of the references should not be construed as an indication of the relative importance of the references.

Remarks

It is respectfully requested that:

- The examiner consider completely the cited information, along with any other information, in reaching a determination concerning the patentability of the present claims;
- The enclosed form PTO-1449 be signed by the examiner to evidence that the cited information has been fully considered by the Patent and Trademark Office during the examination of this application;
- The citations for the information be printed on any patent which issues from this application.

By submitting this information disclosure statement, the applicant makes no representation that a search has been performed, of the extent of any search performed, or that more relevant information does not exist.

By submitting this information disclosure statement, the applicant makes no representation that the information cited in the statement is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56(b).

By submitting this information disclosure statement, the applicant makes no representation that the information cited in the statement is, or is considered to be, in fact, prior art as defined by 35 U.S.C. §102.

Serial No. 10/656,083

Art Unit: 3731

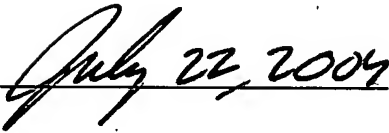
It is understood by applicant that the foregoing information will be considered and, to the extent deemed appropriate by the examiner, will be reflected in the examiner's communication.

Respectfully submitted,



Joyce C. Hersh
Reg. No. 42,890
Kirkpatrick & Lockhart LLP
75 State Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02109
Tel: (617) 261-3100
Customer No.: 022832
Attorneys for Applicants

Date: _____





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Substitute for form 1449A/PTO

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet

of

Complete if Known

Application Number	10/656,083
Filing Date	September 5, 2003
First Named Inventor	Christopher T. Zirps
Art Unit	3731
Examiner Name	Gary Jackson
Attorney Docket Number	B0751/7033

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials *	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number - Kind Code ² (if known)			
		US-4,226,239	10-07-1980	Polk et al.	
		US- 4,230,116	10-28-1980	Watson	
		US- 4,735,194	04-05-1988	Stiegmann	
		US- 4,788,966	12-06-1988	Yoon	
		US- 5,201,908B1	04-13-1993	Jones	
		US- 5,356,416	10-18-1994	Chu et al.	
		US- 5,447,148	09-05-1995	Oneda	
		US- 5,503,616	04-02-1996	Jones	
		US- 5,569,268	10-29-1996	Hosoda	
		US- 5,788,715	08-04-1998	Watson et al.	
		US- 5,888,191	03-30-1999	Akiba	
		US- 6,149,659	11-21-2000	Ahmed	
		US- 6,340,344B1	01-22-2002	Christopher	
		US- 6,685,713	02-03-2004	Ahmed	
		US-			
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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials *	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Country Code ³ - Number ⁴ - Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				

Examiner
SignatureDate
Considered

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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